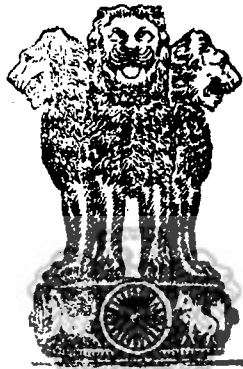


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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE



REPORT OF THE
INDIAN TARIFF BOARD
ON THE
CONTINUANCE OF PROTECTION TO THE
HURRICANE LANTERN INDUSTRY

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REPORT ON THE CONTINUANCE OF PROTECTION TO THE HURRICANE LANTERN INDUSTRY

The Government of India, in the Ministry of Commerce letter No. 38(1)-T|B|49, dated 11th February 1949

Reference to the Board.

stated that a deputation of the Lantern Manufacturers' Association which had waited on the Hon'ble Commerce Minister on 27th January 1949 represented that large imports of lantern from outside India had been causing harm to the industry and that adequate protection should be given to the industry at a very early date. The Ministry of Commerce in the same letter requested the Tariff Board to give due consideration to the points raised by the Association and to recommend to the Government of India, as expeditiously as possible, such steps as the Board considered necessary to protect the indigenous industry (Appendix I).

2. The case of the hurricane lanterns industry was first referred to the Tariff Board for investigation into its claim for protection by Government in their Resolution No. 218-T(55)|45 dated 16th February 1946. After conducting necessary inquiries, the Board submitted its report in July 1946. The Board recommended that the then existing revenue duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* should be converted into a protective duty at the same rate and that the duty should remain in force for a period of three or three and a half years from 1st October 1946. Government agreed to levy the protective duty up to 31st March 1949. When the period of protection was about to expire, the Board, in the latter half of 1948, commenced examining the question of the continuance of protection to this industry beyond 31st March 1949, in accordance with the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Resolution No. 30-T(1)|48, dated the 6th August 1948. The Board in its letter No. TB|G|1(15)1 dated 17th December 1948 stated that from the data collected it appeared that there was a *prima facie* case for the continuance of protection for one more year i.e. up to 31st March 1950. Accordingly, protection to this industry was continued up to 31st March 1950 by the Protective Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949.

3. Special questionnaires were issued to the principal producers of lanterns in the latter half of 1948. The Board's Method of Inquiry. Cost Accounts Officer, Mr. P. V. R. Rao, examined on 26th March 1949 the cost data of hurricane lanterns in 1948 of Messrs. Ogale Glass Works Ltd., Ogalewadi. On 13th April 1949, Dr. Narayanaswamy Naidu held a discussion with Mr. Chimanlal Desai

representing Messrs. Chimanlal Desai & Co., Bombay, (Importers) regarding imports of lanterns into India and the extent of foreign competition. The All-India Lantern Manufacturers' Association was requested to depute representatives for discussion with the Board. Accordingly, on behalf of the Association, Mr. P. S. Padhye of the Ogale Glass Works, Ogalewadi, Mr. S. P. Misra of the Indian Industrial Works Ltd., Calcutta, and Mr. S. Mukherjee of the Oriental Metal Industries Ltd., Calcutta met Mr. G. L. Mehta, President, and Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, Member, at the Board's Office on 23rd April 1949. Subsequently, on 30th April, 1949 Dr. Naidu had also a discussion with Mr. J. N. Gagrat representing Messrs. F. Racek & Co., Bombay (Importers). He interviewed on 11th May 1949 Mr. L. N. Gandhi of Messrs. Gandhi Laherechand Nanchand, Bombay, who represented the consumers.

4. The recommendations of the previous Tariff Board (1946) were

Previous Tariff Board's recommendations and Government's orders thereon.—

- (1) The existing 30 per cent. revenue duty should be converted into a 30 per cent. *ad valorem* protective duty for a period of three or three and a half years from 1st October, 1946.
- (2) Government should give refund of duty paid on machinery which might be imported in future to develop this industry.
- (3) Facilities should be given to the industry to train technical personnel abroad.
- (4) Facilities should be given to import hurricane lantern manufacturing machinery from any country including the United States of America.
- (5) Lantern manufacturers should form an association.
- (6) The Association of hurricane lantern manufacturers, when formed, should approach Government with proposals for assistance in the procurement of raw materials to enable the full productive capacity to be utilised.

The Government of India accepted recommendation (1) and decided to convert the revenue duty of 30 per cent. on lanterns into a protective duty at the same rate till 31st March, 1949. With regard to recommendation (2), it may be noted that as part of their anti-inflationary measures Government reduced the customs duty on imported machinery from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent with effect from 23rd October 1948.

5. The Board had recommended *inter alia* that the lantern manufacturers in India should form an Association and that such an Association should approach Government with proposals for assistance in the procurement of raw materials to enable the industry to utilise its full productive capacity. The manufacturers in their memorandum submitted to the Board have stated that this recommendation has been implemented by the industry.

6. The Tariff Board (1946) had estimated the demand for lanterns in undivided India at 60 lakhs per annum, taking into consideration both the pent-up demand and the higher purchasing power resulting from wartime prosperity. Manufacturers as well as the importers who were present at the inquiry, had concurred in this estimate. But, during the discussion held on 23rd April 1949 at the Board's Office, the Lantern Manufacturers' Association pointed out that, as a result of the partition of the country and the inadequate supplies of kerosene oil, the indigenous demand had decreased to 30 lakhs per year. We accept this figure as a reasonable estimate of the annual demand for lanterns in the country for the next three years.

7. At the time of the last tariff inquiry, there were 8 important domestic manufacturers of lanterns in the country and the total rated capacity of these producers was estimated at 17.52 lakh lanterns per annum. But, the rated capacity of the industry in 1948 was estimated by the representatives present at the discussion on 23rd April 1949 at 25 lakh lanterns against the actual production of 17 lakh lanterns in 1948. It was also mentioned that production was expected to increase with the installation of improved types of machinery and the establishment of new factories. We were informed by the Association that four or five new units had come into existence and had just commenced production. We consider that these estimates of rated capacity and actual production of lanterns are reasonable. A statement showing the rated capacity and the actual production of the several units for the last three months will be found in Appendix II.

8. We are informed that although there has been some improvement in the quality of the indigenous lanterns since the last tariff inquiry, there is still considerable scope for improvement. For instance, Mr. L. N. Gandhi who represented the consumers' interest stated that the jointing has not yet been

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perfected by the Indian manufacturers. We have also been given to understand that the burners are still defective, wick carriers are faulty and final polish is not quite satisfactory. The consumers prefer tin lanterns to coloured ones and this is one of the principal difficulties of the Indian manufacturers who are unable to get the requisite quantity of block tin. It also appears that the prejudice against Indian manufacturers has not yet been wholly overcome. We trust the industry during the extended period of protection as recommended by us will take all possible measures to improve the quality of the lanterns and remedy the various defects which have been brought to light from time to time.

9. (a) The Tariff Board (1946) had stated in its report that although Imports and Import the possible sources of import of hurricane Control. lanterns were the U.S.A., the U.K., Australia and China, only the U.S.A. and the U.K. need be considered as competitors. But the difference between prices of lanterns imported from the United States and those from the United Kingdom was found to be so substantial that the U.S.A. alone had to be treated as the principal competing country, and the Board therefore related the scheme of protection to the Indian industry to the U.S.A. price i.e., c.i.f. price of the Dietz Junior. Since then, the position has changed. The principal country from which lanterns are imported at present is Hongkong. According to the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, there have been recently no imports of lanterns from the U.S.A., while from the U.K. also there have been few imports. There have, however, been some imports from Hongkong.

(b) The present position regarding control over imports is as follows :—

- (i) No licences are granted for importing lanterns from Dollar and other hard currency countries.
- (ii) Imports from sterling and soft currency countries are on the Open General Licence. (Vide page 261 of the Gazette of India dated 22nd February 1949).

10. Under Government of India's notification published in the Exports. Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 13th April, 1949, Government have given general permission to export hurricane lanterns to any country, until further orders, except to a country export to which is forbidden by any special law for the time being in force.

11. "Hurricane lanterns" are classified under item 71(7) of the Indian Customs Tariff. The relevant extract from the Customs Tariff (Twenty-ninth Issue) is reproduced below :—

Item No.	Name of article.	Nature of duty.	Standard rate of duty.	Preferential rate of duty if the article is the produce or manufacture of			Duration of protective rates of duty.
				The United Kingdom.	A British Colony.	Burma.	
71(7)	Hurricane lanterns	Protective	30 per cent <i>ad valorem</i>.	..	..	Free	*March 31st 1949.

12. A statement of recent c.i.f. prices of hurricane lanterns as furnished by the Collectors of Customs, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta showing the country of origin, specification and the date of import is given in Appendix III. It was agreed by the manufacturers and importers that as No. 707 Globe Brand imported from Hongkong corresponds to the Prabhakar lantern manufactured at Ogalewadi, the c.i.f. price of 707 Globe Brand should be adopted as the basis for comparison.

13. The Board's Cost Accounts Officer examined the cost of production of the lanterns manufactured by Messrs. Ogale Glass Works, Ogalewadi for the year 1948. The cost of production as worked out by the Cost Accounts Officer is Rs. 30.13 per dozen. Allowing a profit at the rate of Rs. 3 per dozen on the present block of Messrs. Ogale Glass Works, the fair selling price of the Indian-made lanterns will work out to Rs. 33.13 per dozen. A comparative statement showing the cost of production per dozen as estimated by the previous Tariff Board in 1946 and the present cost of production (1948) is given below :—

*The period of protection has since been extended up to 31st March, 1950 by the Protective Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949.

Statement of the cost of production per dozen as estimated by the previous Tariff Board in 1946 and the present cost of production (1948)

Item	Board's estimate in 1946			Present cost of production (1948)		
	Quantity	Rate (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)	Quantity	Rate (Rs.)	Amount (Rs.)
Raw Materials—						
(i) Terneplate—						
(a) Gauge 30 ..	11.00 lbs.	0.246 per lb.	2.71	..		..
(b) Gauge 28 ..	8.00 "	0.231 "	1.85	1.66 lb.	0.338 per lb.	0.56
(c) Gauge 24 ..	1.00 "	0.215 "	0.22	..	..	..
Black Sheet.						
(d) Gauge 28 ..	..		..	21.60 lbs.	0.168 "	3.63
(e) Gauge 24 ..	..		..	0.83 "	0.304 "	0.25
	20.00 lbs.			24.09 lbs.		
(ii) Brass sheet gauge 19 ..	0.08 "	2.00 "	0.16	0.27 "	2.05 "	0.55
(iii) Steel Wire—						
(a) Gauge 10 or 11 ..	1.75 "	0.234 "	0.41	1.53 "	0.258 "	0.39
(b) Gauge 13 or 14 ..	1.25 "	0.237 "	0.30	1.28 "	0.215 "	0.28
(c) Gauge 12 ..	..	..	..	0.45 "	0.496 "	0.22
	3.00 lbs.			3.26 lbs.		

(iv) Soldier	0.80 "	1.160 "	0.43	0.28 "	1.788 "	0.50
(v) Paint	0.11 gal.	10.00 per gal.	1.10	0.068 gal.	27.840 per gal.	1.89
(vi) Brass Eyelets	2.00 Doz.	0.063 per doz.	0.13	2.53 doz.	0.03 per doz.	0.06
(vii) Wick	6.00 ft.	0.025 per ft.	0.15	1.08 doz.	0.161 per doz.	0.17
(viii) Globes	1.00 doz.	2.00 per doz.	2.00	1.00 "	2.00 "	2.00
(ix) Extra freight on raw materials	..	..	0.25	..	..	..
(x) Other direct materials such as acid, zinc chloride etc.	..	..	0.50	..	..	0.05
2. Power and Fuel	..	..	0.75	..	..	1.25
3. Labour	..	..	5.00	..	..	6.61
4. Repairs and Maintenance	..	..	2.46	..	..	1.30
5. Consumable Stores	..	..	1.18	..	..	0.81
6. Establishment	..	..	1.54	..	..	1.57
7. Depreciation	..	..	0.79	..	..	1.74
8. Other overheads	..	..	1.54	..	..	1.41
9. Packing charges	..	..	4.25	..	..	4.47
10. Interest on Working Capital	..	..	0.39	..	..	0.40
Total Cost (per dozen) Lanterns			28.61			30.13
Total production of Lanterns						2,46,480 Nos.
Production per Day	Working		800 Nos.			807 Nos.

14. A comparison of the c.i.f. price of imported lantern *viz.*, Rs. 33 per dozen and the fair selling price of the indigenous lantern, namely, Rs. 33.13 per dozen, indicates that the c.i.f. price is almost equal to the fair selling price of the Indian-made lantern. At present, there is a protective duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*. This is more than sufficient to cover the prejudice that exists against Indian-made lanterns. It is sufficient also to cover any slight fall in the c.i.f. price in the near future. Consequently, there appears to be no case for any increase in the existing protective duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*. The manufacturers, however, contended that without an assurance of continuance of protection for a certain period beyond 31st March, 1950, improved types of machinery could not be installed so as to increase production with a view to reduce the cost of production. They also stressed that for the same reason, new units could not have the necessary incentive to go into production. There is some force in this contention. We, therefore, recommend that the existing protective duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* should be continued for another two years, *i.e.*, up to 31st March, 1952.

15. (a) Besides their request for the continuance of protection after 31st March, 1950, the industry asked for a quantitative restriction on imports of lanterns from foreign countries. We do not consider that the industry has made out a case for such restriction and cannot therefore recommend it.

(b) The industry complained that it did not get adequate quantities of block tin for the manufacture of lanterns. We recommend that the Ministry of Industry and Supply should take steps to supply block tin to this industry in sufficient quantities.

(c) The representatives of the Association stated that the Government of Pakistan had imposed a duty of 30 per cent. on imports of hurricane lanterns into that country. They contended that this duty hampered the export of hurricane lanterns from India to Pakistan. We recommend that this question should be taken up by the Government of India at the next Inter-Dominion Conference.

(d) The industry also asked for a reduction in the internal freight rates for lanterns. We suggest that the industry should approach the railway authorities in this connection.

(e) We are of the opinion that the industry should make every effort to increase production and reduce costs in order to meet all the requirements of the country.

16. Under paragraph 2 of the Commerce Ministry Resolution No. 30-T(1)48 dated 6th August, 1948, the Board is authorised to maintain a continuous watch over the progress of a protected industry so as to ensure that the conditions attached to the grant of protection are fully implemented and that the protected industry.

dustry is being run efficiently. For this purpose, it is necessary that the Board should be in possession of relevant statistics and facts regarding the development of the industry. All units in the industry should therefore be required by Government to submit annual progress reports to the Tariff Board by 31st January every year, giving information regarding production, sales, stocks, costs of production and selling prices for the previous calendar year. Such reports should also include statements regarding supply of raw materials and other factors which may have a bearing on the efficiency of the industry.

17. (i) The existing protective duty of 30 per cent *ad valorem* should be continued for another two years, i.e., up to 31st March 1952. (Paragraph 14).

(ii) The industry has not made out a case for quantitative restriction on imports. [Paragraph 15(a)].

(iii) The Ministry of Industry and Supply should take steps to supply block tin to the hurricane lantern industry in sufficient quantities. [Paragraph 15(d)].

(iv) The Government of India should take up at the next Inter-Dominion Conference the question of reduction or abolition of customs duty levied in Pakistan on imported Indian hurricane lanterns. [Paragraph 15(c)].

(v) The industry should approach the Railway Board regarding the question of internal railway freights applicable to hurricane lanterns. [Paragraph 15(d)].

(vi) The industry should make every effort to increase production and reduce costs in order to meet all the requirements of the country. [Paragraph 15(e)].

(vii) All units in the industry should be required by Government to submit annual progress report to the Tariff Board by 31st January every year giving information regarding production, sales, stocks, costs of production and selling prices in the previous calendar year. Such reports should also include statements regarding the supply of raw materials and other factors that may have a bearing on the efficiency of the industry. (Paragraph 16).

18. The Board wishes to express its thanks to Mr. P. V. R. Rao, Board's Cost Accounts Officer for conducting the cost examination of Messrs. Ogale Glass Works, Ogalewadi.

G. L. MEHTA, *President*.

B. V. NARAYANASWAMY, *Member*.

R. DORAISWAMY,
Secretary
BOMBAY.

Dated 18th May 1949.

APPENDIX I

(Vide para. 1).

No. 38(1)-T|B|49.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

New Delhi, the 11th Feb. 49

FROM

V. S. Ramaswamy, Esquire,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary,

Indian Tariff Board,

Contractor Building, Nicol Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay.

SUBJECT :—PROTECTION OF HURRICANE LANTERN INDUSTRY.

SIR,

The deputation of Lantern Manufacturers' Association who waited on Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, on 27-1-49, pointed out, among other things, that imports of lanterns from outside India were causing harm to the industry and adequate protection should be given to the industry at a very early date, having regard to the increased production costs locally, notwithstanding their best efforts to improve their methods of production, cost overheads etc. The Hon'ble the Commerce Minister undertook to bring these points to the notice of the Tariff Board and request them to deal with the case as expeditiously as possible. The deputationists were also told to send fuller factual material relating to the cost of production and prices to the Tariff Board. They have agreed to do so. It is, therefore, requested that the Tariff Board may kindly give due consideration to the points raised by the Lantern Manufacturers' Association and recommend to the Government of India as early as possible, such steps as are necessary to protect the indigenous industry.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.)

Under Secretary

APPENDIX II

(Vide paragraph 7)

Statement showing the annual rated capacity and actual production of the different factories for the three months Jan.-March 1949

Serial No.	Name of the factory.	Annual Rated capacity (in nos.)	Production for three months Jan.—Mar. 49 (in nos.)
1	M/s. Ogale Glass Works Ltd., Ogalewadi ..	3,00,000	50,288
2	M/s. Oriental Metal Industries Ltd., Calcutta ..	5,00,000	79,000
3	M/s. Jay Engineering Works Ltd., Calcutta ..	6,00,000	1,10,168
4	M/s. India Industrial Works Ltd., Howrah ..	5,00,000	57,640
5	Dumraon Industries Ltd.	1,20,000	10,851
6	M/s. Empire Industries	60,000	Figures not received.
7	M/s. Raghu Engineering Works	60,000	Do.
†8	M/s. A. K. Sircar Ltd., Calcutta	2,00,000	Do.
9	M/s. J. Hardware Works, Delhi	1,20,000	..
10	M/s. J. N. Sarma, Delhi	1,20,000	..
11	M/s. Modi Industries Ltd., Modinagar	3,00,000	..
12	M/s. F. Racek and Co., Bombay	1,20,000	..
	Total ..	30,00,000	

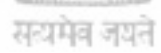
* Furnished by the Lantern Manufacturers' Association, Calcutta.

† Approximate.

Note :—Nos. 8 to 12 are new units.

APPENDIX III.
(*Vide para. 12*).
C. I. F. prices of hurricane lanterns.

Serial No.	Source of information	Country of origin	Date of Import	Specification	C. I. F. Price per dozen Rs. ss. ps.	Remarks.
1	Collector of Customs, Bombay	Hongkong	31-3-49	Globe Brand No. 88	26 6 11	Ra. 27-4-0 less 3%.
	Do.	Do.	March 49	Do. No. 202	22 0 0	
	Do.	Do.	31-3-49	Do. No. 707	33 0 0	
	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. No. 505	33 0 0	
	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. No. 303	27 0 0	
	Do.	U. K.	Do.	Efar No. 609	42 6 3	
2	Collector of Customs, Calcutta	U. K.	His letter dated 4-4-49	Grenlin	32 0 0	No importations from U.S.A. have been noticed recently.
		Hongkong	Do.	Lighthouse brand No. 555	25 8 0	
	Collector of Customs, Madras	U. K.	23-3-49	Grenlin Leard	36 4 0	
	Do.	China	28-3-49	Globe Brand No. 303 size	27 12 0	
	Do.	Do.	29-3-49	Globe Brand No. 303 size	28 2 0	



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